

Appl. No. 10/616,956
Amdt. Dated December 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 24 (cancelled)

25.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus for wild birds comprising

(a) a platform having at least one low point and constructed and arranged to be connected at a discharge opening at each low point to an inlet opening in a hollow support means attachable to a base and adapted to provide in operation an unobstructed substantially vertical downward waste discharge path from each discharge opening to a replaceable collection container provided within the base;

(b) a cover member adapted to

(i) be maintained in spaced-apart relationship from the platform by a plurality of cover support members provided at selected points on an upper surface of the platform, and

(ii) provide, in operation, vertical coverage over at least all of a horizontal plane connecting all points on a perimeter of the platform; and

(c) hanging means provided on an interior surface of the cover adapted for releasably securing a bird feeding means.

26.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the hollow support means comprises a telescopic tube, wherein in an operating position

(i) each section has a larger internal diameter than an immediately higher section, and

(ii) securing means are provided to retain the sections in a selected position after adjustment.

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27.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein a ground-facing surface of the base is substantially open.

28.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the base is provided with fixing means to secure it to a supporting surface.

29.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein a sidewall of the base comprises access means for selectively removing and replacing the collection container.

30.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 25, wherein the collection container has a water permeable base.

31.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the water permeable base comprises a fine mesh.

32.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein dimensions of the platform are selected such that a minimum distance of the perimeter from an outer surface of the hollow support means exceeds a maximum limb span of animals capable of climbing the hollow support means.